

THE LEGISLATURE State of Hawaii

NEWS RELEASE

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Lawmakers Pass Bill Easing Liability Issues for Motorsports Facilities

Honolulu. In an effort to facilitate the development and use of motorsports facilities in the state, the legislature approved a bill that addresses certain liability issues.

The legislature found that motorsports facilities across the country are commonly operated by county governments. Senate Bill 2213 provides for qualified immunity for public entities and public employees from injuries sustained by anyone using a motorsports facility. It also clarifies that any waiver, release, or indemnity agreement must be executed in writing by a parent or legal guardian of a minor in order to be enforceable against the rights of the minor.

The intent of the legislation is to promote a sports and family activity properly balanced with the rights and responsibilities for safety. A motorcross facility in East Hawaii was the inspiration.

"This is a true example of the County of Hawaii, the Big Island legislative team, and the community working cooperatively to pass a measure that will benefit our youth and their families," said Representative Jerry Chang (District 2 – Hilo), who was a main supporter of the bill and co-chaired the Conference Committee. "This bill will ensure that our youngsters have an opportunity to utilize the track and enjoy a sport that they love."

The County of Hawaii contributed \$50,000 for the construction of the motorcross track. "That was the easy part," continued Rep. Chang. "The labor, equipment and supplies needed to complete the track were donated by the friends and families of the motorcross riders."

The bill not only applies to motorcross racing, but to all motor sports including drag racing, go kart racing, and stock car racing. The measure has been sent to the Governor to be enacted into law.